

A meeting of the Walker River Irrigation District (WRID) Board of Directors was held on March 9, 2026. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM at the District Board Room, 410 N. Main St, Yerington, Nevada by President SNYDER.

Present:

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|-------------------|-------------------------|
| Jim SNYDER | President |
| Marcus MASINI | Vice President |
| Richard NUTI | Treasurer |
| David GIORGI | Director |
| Dennis ACCIARI | Director |
| Robert BRYAN | General Manager |
| Jessica HALTERMAN | Secretary |
| Gordon DePAOLI | Legal Counsel |
| Sandy NEVILLE | Water Rights Specialist |

Public Present:

| | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Joanne Sarkisian, USBWC | Carlie Henneman, WBC | Lauren Bartels, NDWR |
| AJ Jensby, NDWR | LD Bowden, SVMVCD | Dana Fenili-Doll |
| Trent Renner | | |

Public Present via Zoom:

| | | |
|-----------------------|------------|-----------------------|
| Chris Smallcomb, NOAA | Tom Renner | Dave Hockaday, LCBOCC |
| Jake Ward | KJ Joshi | Isaac Metcalf, NDOW |

1. Public Comment

None presented.

2. Roll Call and Determination of Quorum

All 5 members were present.

3. Consideration of Minutes of the February 9, 2026, Regular Meeting

Director GIORGI made a motion to approve the minutes; Director ACCIARI offered a second. The vote was called for and passed.

4. Recess as Board of Directors and convene as Board of Corrections for corrections of assessments pursuant to NRS 539.680

The Board of Directors recessed, and the Board of Corrections was convened at 10:05am. President SNYDER asked if there were any corrections requested; Secretary HALTERMAN stated she did not receive any before the meeting and none were presented today.

5. Adjourn as Board of Corrections and reconvene as Board of Directors

The Board of Corrections was adjourned, and the Board of Directors was reconvened at 10:06am.

6. Water Master's Report

Joanne SARKISIAN reported Bridgeport was at 37,120 acre-feet (87% capacity) and Topaz was 54,820 acre-feet (91% capacity). The reservoirs look good and the levels are holding steady. The current decree is full on both sides of the river as there is not a lot of demand yet. The snowpack on March 1st was 82%, so the Tribe's start date is April 15th. Joanne is delivering 300cfs of decree with most of that being on the East. The US Board of Water Commissioners has a meeting on March 18th at 10am.

7. Staff Reports:

A. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer NUTI reported as of February 28, 2026:

| | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| Cash in Checking | \$ 106,005.24 |
| Cash in Money Market | \$2,553,911.64 |
| Cash in CDs | <u>\$ 837,903.70</u> |
| Total | \$3,497,820.58 |

Treasurer NUTI asked if it would be wise to transfer money from the Money Market to a CD. Secretary HALTERMAN stated that it would be fine but cautioned about moving too much too soon. Vice President MASINI asked if treasury bonds had been considered; Secretary HALTERMAN stated she had not looked into them but could. Treasurer NUTI asked that investment information be provided next month.

B. Consideration of Bills and Payroll for payment

Director GIORGI asked if the John Deere Leasing bill was for the loader; GM BRYAN confirmed it was. Vice President MASINI asked what the Pape bill was for; GM BRYAN stated a couple of excavators needed servicing and repairs. President SNYDER asked if the Sciarani & Co. bill was the final bill for the audit; Secretary HALTERMAN stated it was the bill for the entire audit, and we do not expect any follow up bills.

Vice President MASINI made a motion to approve the bills; Treasurer NUTI offered a second. The vote was called for and passed.

C. Manager's Report

GM BRYAN stated there is a breakdown of the USGS gages in the packet. Topaz is currently at 54,820 acre-feet (91% capacity) and Bridgeport is currently at 37,120 acre-feet (88% capacity). Since the beginning of November, Topaz has stored 35,200 acre-feet and Bridgeport has stored 20,570 acre-feet.

The shop crew has continued with repairs and maintenance on canals, drains, and reservoirs. Last week, equipment was moved to Smith Valley to work on the Colony then to transition to Hoye Canyon. GM BRYAN has been working with

Lyon County Road Department and Emergency Management regarding the land movement in Hoye Canyon. The project is larger than the District can manage, so Taylor Allison with Emergency Management is working to find grant funding or assistance from agencies such as the Yellow Jackets and Army Corps of Engineers.

The District is working with NDOT on the Hwy 95a project. The contractor award should be announced soon after the March 18th closing deadline. Once the contractor is announced, the District will set up a meeting with NDOT, the contractor, and interested parties to discuss plans and timelines.

On Wednesday February 25th, users of LID 4 and 5 as well as the Water Master, the SCADA Integrator Shawn, and other users visited the automated sites in the Hoye Canyon. There have been issues with communications, and it was a good overview of how the system works with and without radio communications.

NDWR is having their annual well water meetings on Tuesday March 24th. The Mason Valley group is scheduled to meet at the WRID office from 11am-1pm and the Smith Valley group is scheduled to meet at the SV Library from 3-5pm.

GM BRYAN stated a copy of the draft budget was provided to Board members and is available on the District website. He asked that all Board members review the packet and let him or Secretary HALTERMAN know of any questions or changes. The approval will be on next month's agenda. There will also be an agenda item for a resolution to collect fees on the larger projects being proposed in the District.

Vice President MASINI asked if NRCS had been contacted regarding the Hoye Canyon issue; GM BRYAN stated they had not been contacted because the problem encompasses private property as well. There is also the cost share aspect of NRCS projects and Emergency Management is working to get funding that encompasses all parties involved.

Treasurer NUTI stated he was quite amazed with the sandbar that was washed into the river and asked if it was going to send water over and erode the road; GM BRYAN stated that it was just one. There is a lot more rock along the road in that area so the road should not be eroded. GM BRYAN stated he focused on the one by the Colony Ditch and worked to clean that up. Vice President MASINI asked if there are problems in other locations besides the Colony; GM BRYAN stated there are a couple of areas. There is a wide opening that has sluffing coming off of the Saroni road and that is an area where the canal has broken twice. Vice President MASINI asked if there was a lot of liability since the District owns the Saroni; GM BRYAN stated it has topped over quite a few times. Vice President MASINI asked about the liability of people parking below the Saroni; GM BRYAN stated the parking area is well below the problem area and is closer to the river. GM BRYAN stated the District looked into piping the area, but it was close to \$15 million at that time and the problem is actually above the canal so the sluffing would still happen.

D. Legal Counsel's Report

Counsel DePAOLI stated the additional 11 applications from Singatse have been filed. The last time he looked they had not gone to publication. Once the protest period closes on the applications, there will more than likely be another status hearing on how to move forward.

8. Presentation by Chris Smallcomb with NOAA regarding the current year weather and water outlook for 2026 irrigation season.

Chris Smallcomb presented a slide presentation, highlights included:

- Decreased rain events
- The chance of a Miracle March is about 10%
- There is a high-pressure system that is shielding any events from coming into our area
- There is a 0% chance for precipitation above a tenth of an inch in the immediate outlook
- The temperatures have been above normal and are going to be in the 80s starting Friday. These temperatures are a month earlier than normal.
- The low temperatures are above freezing, and the snow will be melting
- The 3–4-week outlook shows below normal precipitation but there is a possibility of isolated storms
- The NRCS SNOTEL SWE median was 78% of normal yesterday
- The SWE has changed since February 22nd with most sites showing a more than one inch loss
- There is a chance that the flows have hit the peak in mid-February, but it is hard to say.
- The observed flows are above normal already with 162% of normal on the West Walker and 102% of normal on the East Walker
- The April-July forecast shows volumes of 58% of normal on the West Walker and 51% of normal on the East Walker

Treasurer NUTI asked if the high-country ground was wet; Chris stated the soil moisture is still good and the runoff efficiency is good as well. There is a flooding concern with late season atmospheric rivers. If no atmospheric rivers surface, there is high likelihood of early green up and grass growth.

9. Update from the Division of Water Resources regarding groundwater pumping and upcoming fieldwork schedules.

Lauren BARTELS reminded everyone about the March 24th groundwater update meetings.

10. Update by the Walker Basin Conservancy on activities related to the Walker Basin Restoration Program, including Acquisitions and Conservation and Stewardship Activities.

Carlie HENNEMAN stated they are still working on the sale of the Smith Valley land.

11. Discussion and consideration of storage water allocation for the 2026 irrigation season.

GM BRYAN stated there was a breakdown supporting the allocation recommendation for each reservoir. GM BRYAN recommends a 62-72% allocation for Bridgeport and 64-74% allocation for Topaz.

The numbers are based on the current pool level, pan evaporation, minimum pool, and a 30% trans evaporation calculation.

The reservoir pools are healthy right now, but the evaporation and minimum pools must be accounted for. Based on the update from the Weather Service, the runoff will be early and quick this year so storage water will be relied upon.

Director ACCIARI made a motion to set the allocation for Bridgeport at 67% and Topaz at 69%; Treasurer NUTI offered a second. The vote was called for and passed.

12. Discussion and determination of the season of delivery of storage water in 2025 as provided in Section 9.3 of District Regulation No. 9

GM BRYAN stated historically, the season started on April 1st. There is normally not a lot of demand in March.

Director GIORGI made a motion to start the irrigation season on April 1st; Treasurer NUTI offered a second. The vote was called for and passed.

13. Discussion and determination of the last date to allow irrigation season changes in place of use of storage water from reservoir to reservoir as provided in and required by Section 6.1 of District Regulation No. 6

GM BRYAN stated with the information from the weather service regarding possibly being past the peak flows, he is not comfortable with a late May cutoff and recommends a May 1st cutoff date.

Treasurer NUTI made a motion to set the last date for reservoir-to-reservoir transfers as May 1st; Vice President MASINI offered a second. The vote was called for and passed unanimously.

14. Consideration for making available and delivering well water for the District Well under Nevada State Engineer Permit No. 25813, Certificate No. 8861 to lands within the District beginning April 1, 2026

GM BRYAN stated the current rate is \$30 per acre-foot. The District well will need to be re-drilled at some point and quotes ranged from \$80-150,000. GM BRYAN recommends starting the well water drawing for April. President SNYDER asked if the pumping exceeds the permitted allowance; GM BRYAN stated it has not. The well would need to pump 9cfs daily, but it is currently pumping 7cfs. Director GIORGI asked how much money was saved in the well fund; Secretary HALTERMAN stated there is approximately \$10,000 in the fund right now. Treasurer NUTI confirmed the water needs to be used in the month it is awarded; GM BRYAN confirmed that and stated it should not be saved until later in the season as the exchange may not be possible.

Vice President MASINI made a motion to run the well and to keep the rate at \$30 per acre-foot; Director GIORGI offered a second. The vote was called for and passed unanimously.

15. Consideration of offer to purchase WRID Lyon County parcels APN 014-081-02 and APN 014-081-06 and direction from the Board to Manager and legal counsel for next steps.

Counsel DePAOLI stated the appraisal had been provided to KJ after last month's meeting. KJ advised the 200-acre parcel will not be beneficial to his project, so the offer is only for the 80-acre parcel at \$700,000. GM BRYAN stated he reached out to the Lyon County Road Department, and they provided a map noting the existing access easements. Counsel DePAOLI stated there is currently interest in purchasing the property, so he recommended the Board decide if they would entertain selling the parcel, at what price, and with what conditions. If the price and conditions are satisfactory to KJ, the letter of intent to purchase would need to be brought back to the Board for discussion and unanimous approval. Treasurer NUTI asked if the parcel was zone commercial, confirmed it was not land-locked, and the District has access to it; GM BRYAN confirmed all of that and added there were sales in the area substantially above the offer. KJ stated all of the area's sales were factored into the offer and the offer is above the appraised value of \$680,000. Director GIORGI stated the appraisal versus area sales are very different.

Treasurer NUTI made a motion to direct staff to look at selling the property between 2-2.5 million dollars; Director GIORGI offered a second. The vote was called for and passed unanimously.

16. Director Comments

None presented.

17. Public Comment

None presented.

18. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

Jim Snyder, President

Marcus Masini, Vice President

Richard Nuti, Treasurer

Dennis Acciari, Director

David Giorgi, Director